

### **Provision of HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral Services**

**Policy:** Each county health department in the State of Florida is mandated to provide both anonymous and confidential HIV counseling, testing, and referral services in an effort to prevent the spread of new infections. The goal of HIV counseling and testing is to assist individuals in assessing their risk and understanding their test results and to help them develop a personalized prevention plan. Counseling shall include notifying the patient of the availability of partner counseling and referral services, the benefits of such services, and the confidentiality protections available as part of such services. HIV-infected persons and those at risk for HIV should be referred to needed services, including substance abuse treatment, Healthy Start, prevention case management, and medical care.

HIV counseling, testing, and referral sites must be registered with the Department of Health in accordance with s. 381.004, Florida Statutes. Individuals conducting HIV pre- and post-test counseling must successfully complete the *HIV/AIDS 500 course* and the *HIV/AIDS 501 Prevention Counseling, Testing, and Referral Services* course. HIV counselors will utilize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV prevention counseling model, which empowers clients to self-identify their potential risk for HIV infection. Information presented to the client must be communicated in a comprehensible, non-judgmental, culturally-sensitive manner. Clients shall be given information on the availability and location of anonymous test sites and should be informed of Florida HIV infection reporting laws. Clients must provide written informed consent prior to HIV testing.

**Authority:** Section 381.004, F.S.

**Effective Date:**

Signature on File  
John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.  
Secretary, Department of Health

For Technical Assistance on this policy, see TA-HIV/AIDS 9.